ARES

MARVEL LIMITED SERIES

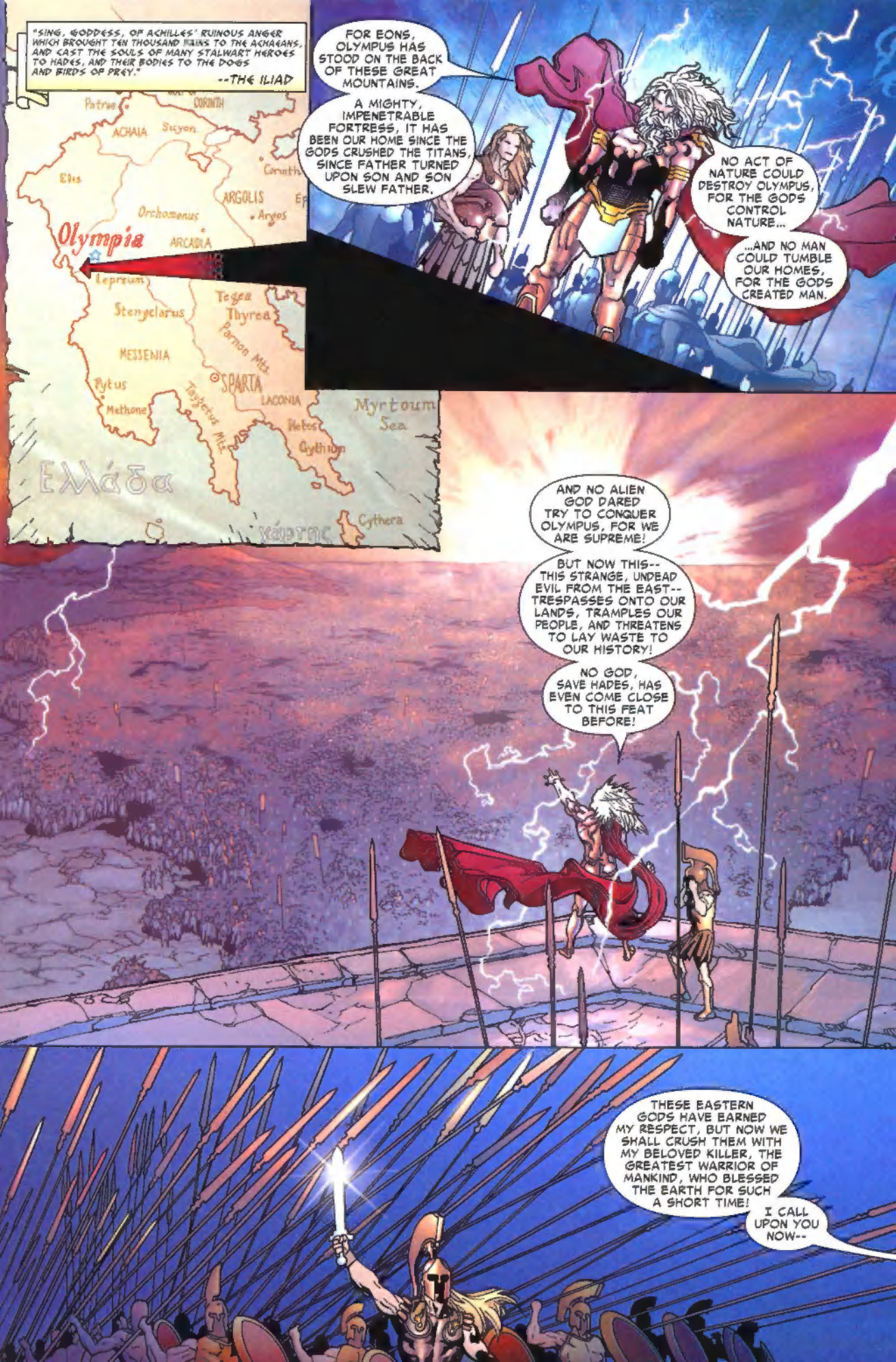
2 of 5

PARENTAL ADVISORY

MIKE OEMING

TRAVEL FOREMAN

DEREK FRIDOLFS


"SING, GODDESS, OF ACHILLES' RUINOUS ANGER WHICH BROUGHT TEN THOUSAND PAINS TO THE ACHAEANS, AND CAST THE SOULS OF MANY STALWART HEROES TO HADES, AND THEIR BODIES TO THE DOGS AND BIRDS OF PREY."
--THE ILIAD
Patrae
CORINTH
ACHAIA
Sicyon
Corinth
Elis
ARGOLIS
Argos
Orchomenus
Olympia
ARCADIA
Lepreum
Stenyclarus
Tegea
Thyrea
Parnon Mts.
MESSENIA
SPARTA
Pylus
Methone
Taygetus Mts.
LACONIA
Myrtoum Sea
Helos
Gythion
Ελλάδα
Cythera
Κύπρος
FOR EONS, OLYMPUS HAS STOOD ON THE BACK OF THESE GREAT MOUNTAINS.
A MIGHTY, IMPENETRABLE FORTRESS, IT HAS BEEN OUR HOME SINCE THE GODS CRUSHED THE TITANS, SINCE FATHER TURNED UPON SON AND SON SLEW FATHER.
NO ACT OF NATURE COULD DESTROY OLYMPUS, FOR THE GODS CONTROL NATURE...
...AND NO MAN COULD TUMBLE OUR HOMES, FOR THE GODS CREATED MAN.
AND NO ALIEN GOD DARED TRY TO CONQUER OLYMPUS, FOR WE ARE SUPREME!
BUT NOW THIS-- THIS STRANGE, UNDEAD EVIL FROM THE EAST-- TRESPASSES ONTO OUR LANDS, TRAMPLES OUR PEOPLE, AND THREATENS TO LAY WASTE TO OUR HISTORY!
NO GOD, SAVE HADES, HAS EVEN COME CLOSE TO THIS FEAT BEFORE!
THESE EASTERN GODS HAVE EARNED MY RESPECT, BUT NOW WE SHALL CRUSH THEM WITH MY BELOVED KILLER, THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF MANKIND, WHO BLESSED THE EARTH FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME!
I CALL UPON YOU NOW--

ACHILLES!!

TO ARMS, MY WARRIORS!

CRUSH THE DEMONS OF THE EAST!

MILES AWAY IN THE STRONGHOLD OF ACHILLES' WARRIORS, THE MYRMIDON, TWO SOLDIERS GUARD A STOLEN TREASURE...

Orchomenus

Olympia

Lepreum

Stenyclarus

MESSENIA

THE BATTLE BEGINS, BROTHER. HOW FARES ARES' BOY?

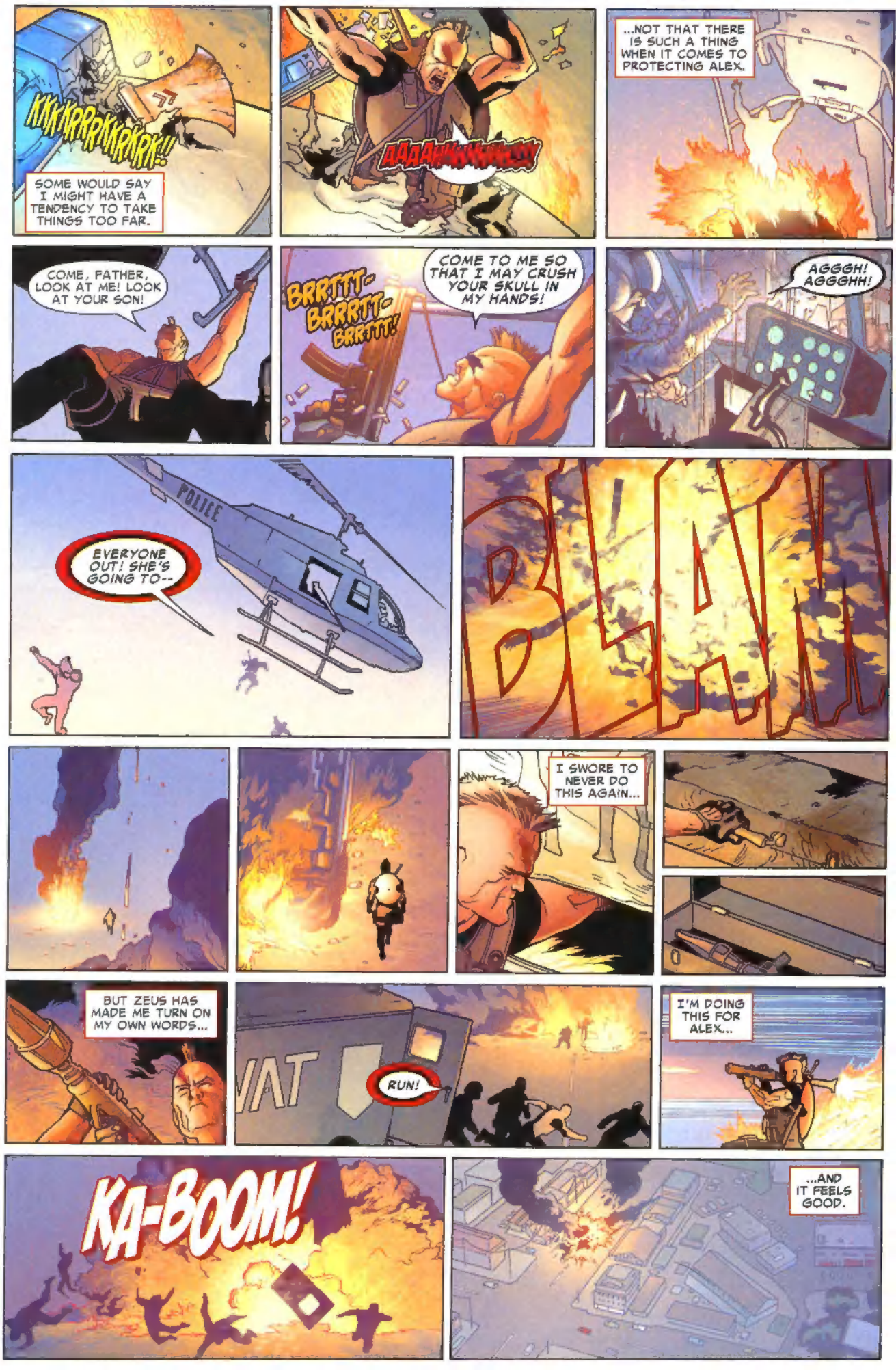
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND CHILDREN. THEY ARE BEYOND ME. THOUGH HE LIVES, I THINK HE IS IN SHOCK.

...FATHER... WHERE ARE YOU...

TODAY IS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE.
HOLD IT! DON'T #%/@#*G MOVE!!
DON'T WAIT! FIRE! TAKE HIM DOWN!
BLAMBLAMBLAMB

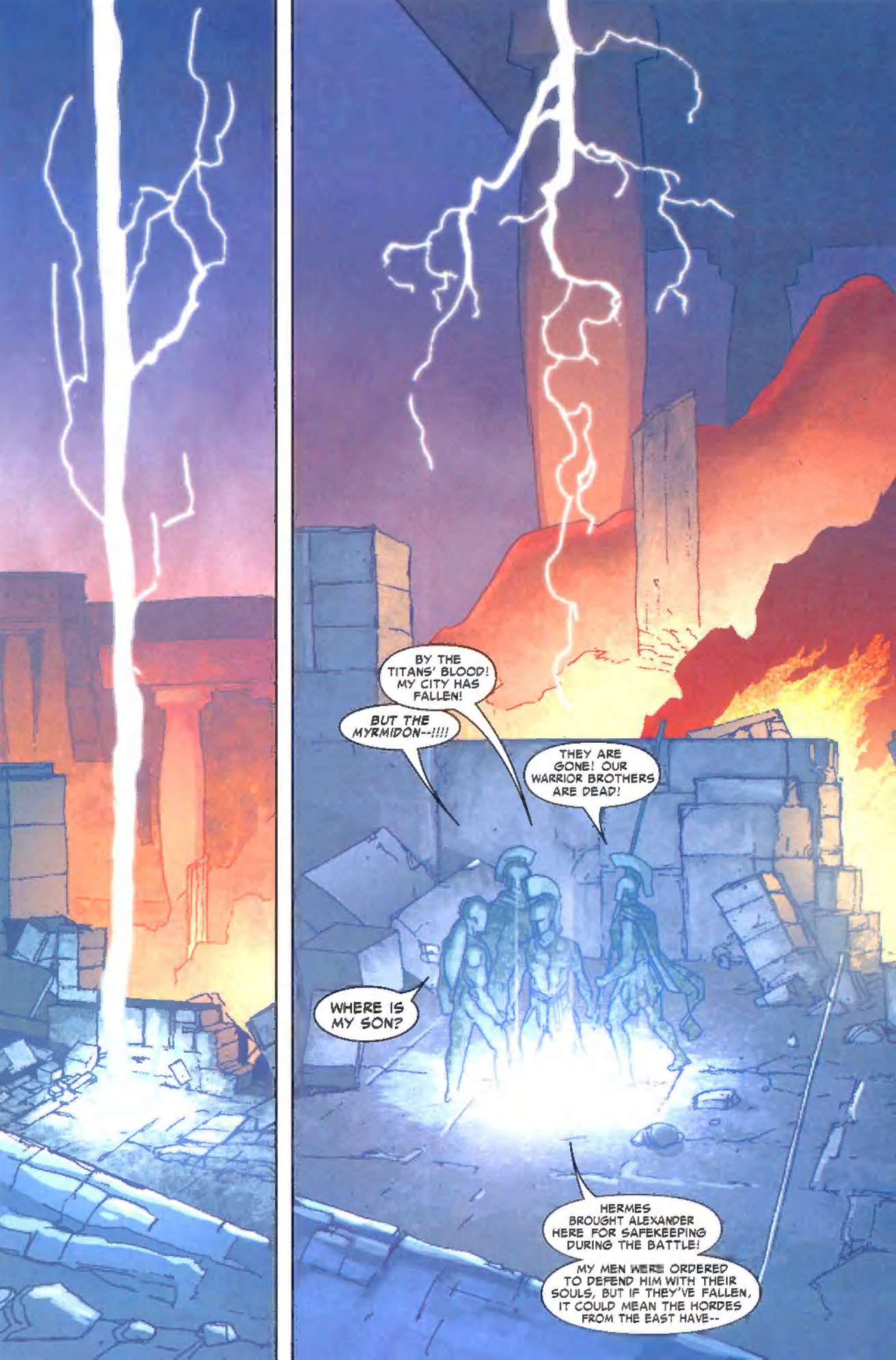
...BUT AS I LIE ON THE GROUND, ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS ALEX...
I TOLD YOU...
HOLY CRAP, WHAT THE #*@$ IS HE ON?
HE'S GOT A JACKET ON!!
I SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD!!
...TO STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
BLAM
TODAY, SOMEONE STOLE MY SON.
MOVE, OR NEXT TIME IT WON'T JUST BE YOUR LEGS!
AGGH!
AND I KNOW WHO IT WAS.
I KNOW YOUR WEAPONS BETTER THAN YOU. STAY OUT OF MY WAY!
MY FATHER ZEUS.
HE CALLED FOR THE GOD OF WAR, BUT I WOULD NOT ANSWER. HE TRIED TO AWAKEN MY WRATH BY TAKING MY SON...
HE'S IN THE CAR! HE'S STOLEN THE PATROL CAR! BLOCK THE ROAD! BLOCK THE ROAD!
...AND IT HAS WORKED. ARES IS BACK, BUT NOT AS ZEUS WANTED.

DAMN YOU, FATHER.
POLICE
THIS IS ADAM-BRAVO-NINER, OVER. SUBJECT IS ACQUIRED AND HEADING NORTH ON WILLOW ROAD, OVER.
I WILL RETURN TO OLYMPIA AND BATHE THE CITY IN MY WRATH.
POLICE
THEY WANTED ARES...
POLICE
SWAT
SWAT UNIT
BRPPP
AND SO THEY SHALL HAVE HIM.
BRRPPP-BRPPP-BRPPP
WHAM!
LET THIS CHAOS BE A SIGN THAT THE GOD OF WAR HAS RETURNED!
FIRE AT WILL!
SWAT
BLAM BLAM BRRRKK!
EMERGENCY 911
THE POLICE THOUGHT I WAS A THREAT TO MY SON...THESE FOOLISH IDIOTS GOT IN MY WAY...
ERRRRRRR!!!
BOOM!!!
IT'S NOT GOOD TO GET IN MY WAY.


KKKRRRKKRKRK!!
SOME WOULD SAY I MIGHT HAVE A TENDENCY TO TAKE THINGS TOO FAR.
AAAAHHHHHHHH!!!
...NOT THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING ALEX.
COME, FATHER, LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT YOUR SON!
BRRTTT-BRRRTT-BRRTTT!
COME TO ME SO THAT I MAY CRUSH YOUR SKULL IN MY HANDS!
AGGGH! AGGGHH!
POLICE
EVERYONE OUT! SHE'S GOING TO--
BLAM
I SWORE TO NEVER DO THIS AGAIN...
BUT ZEUS HAS MADE ME TURN ON MY OWN WORDS...
RUN!
I'M DOING THIS FOR ALEX...
KA-BOOM!
...AND IT FEELS GOOD.

ALEX WILL BE PROUD OF HIS OLD MAN.
PULL BACK! WE NEED BIGGER BACKUP-- CAN WE GET THE AVENGERS OR SOMEONE?
THE AVENGERS DISBANDED, RIGHT?
NO, THEY'RE BACK, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW WE GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM--
SWAT
SWAT
DON'T APPROACH HIM UNTIL WE GET SOME KIND OF REAL POWER IN HERE, WE'RE JUST GOING TO GET KILLED.
WE CAN'T JUST--
JUST HOLD OFF, THAT'S A DAMNED ORDER!
YOU WANTED TO KIDNAP MY SON RATHER THAN FACE ME, FATHER!?
THEN COME ON, I HAVE A *!**G FIGHT FOR YOU NOW!
THAT SORT OF LANGUAGE DOESN'T SOUND VERY GODLY, ARES.
I'M NO GOD, YOU ARROGANT *!(#@*!
I'M GOING TO KILL ZEUS FOR TAKING MY BOY!

WHAT?
WE ASKED HONORABLY THROUGH HERMES, BUT YOU FORCED OUR HAND, ARES.
ASGARD HAS BEEN DESTROYED--THE NORSE GODS ARE DEAD--AND NOW, UNSEEN ENEMIES ASSAULT OLYMPUS. BUT THESE CREATURES ARE UNLIKE ANY WE'VE FACED BEFORE. WE BARELY ESCAPED OUR LAST ENCOUNTER WITH THEM.
LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO ME!
I SEE THAT IT HAS IMPROVED YOUR WOMANLY LOOKS, ACHILLES.
I WILL GO TO MY SON...
AND I WILL SHOW HIM THE GOD OF WAR, AND, PERHAPS THEN, MY CHILD WILL CUT HIS GRANDFATHER'S THROAT TO AVENGE THE DISHONOR DONE UPON HIM!
SO BE IT.
THE BOLTS OF ZEUS WILL RETURN US TO MY FORTRESS WHERE YOUR CHILD AWAITS!
THOOM!
HOLY--WHAT WAS THAT?
A BOMB?! WAS THAT A BOMB?
DETECTIVE MACK?


BY THE TITANS' BLOOD! MY CITY HAS FALLEN!
BUT THE MYRMIDON--!!!!
THEY ARE GONE! OUR WARRIOR BROTHERS ARE DEAD!
WHERE IS MY SON?
HERMES BROUGHT ALEXANDER HERE FOR SAFEKEEPING DURING THE BATTLE!
MY MEN WERE ORDERED TO DEFEND HIM WITH THEIR SOULS, BUT IF THEY'VE FALLEN, IT COULD MEAN THE HORDES FROM THE EAST HAVE--

WHERE IS MY BOY?!

ACHILLES, THE CREATURES ARE AMONG US...

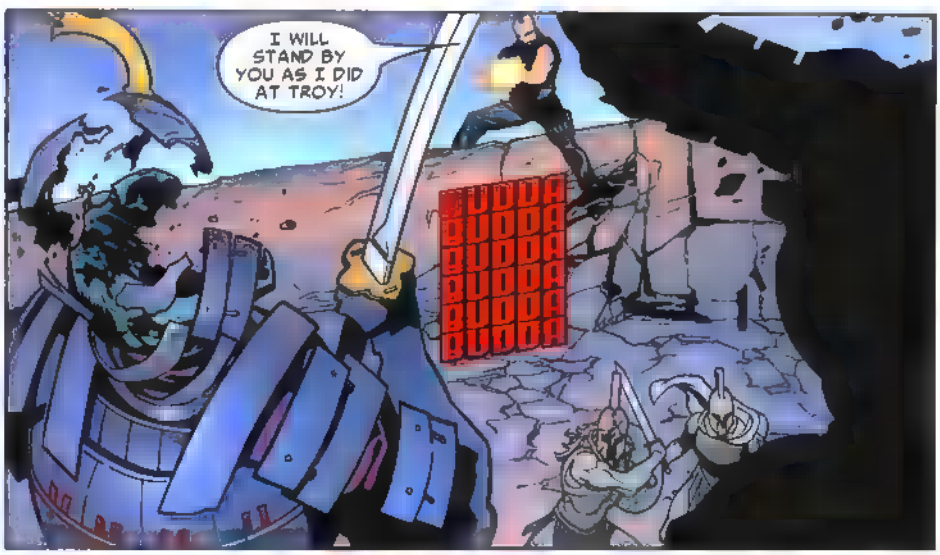
FACE YOUR FATES THEN, ACHILLES. MAY THEY TEAR YOU APART!

I WAR WITH ZEUS ONLY. TRY NOT TO DIE TOO SWIFTLY...

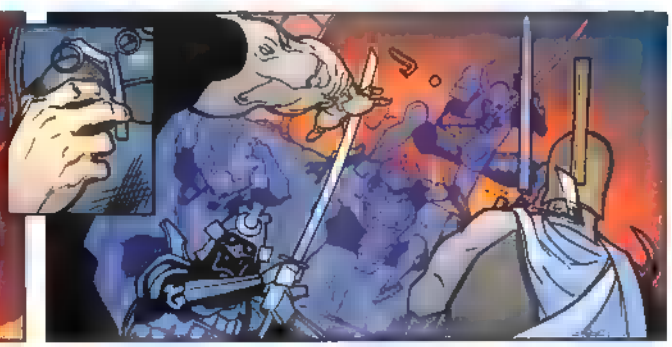
GASP

ARES, IT WAS THESE BEASTS THAT TOOK YOUR SON!
IT WAS I WHO FAILED TO PROTECT HIM! BUT I SWEAR TO SERVE YOU UNTIL WE FIND HIM! EVEN IF THAT MEANS TO STAND AGAINST YOUR FATHER VENGEANCE!!

ALRIGHT, FOR OLD TIMES THEN...
CLICK


I WILL STAND BY YOU AS I DID AT TROY!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

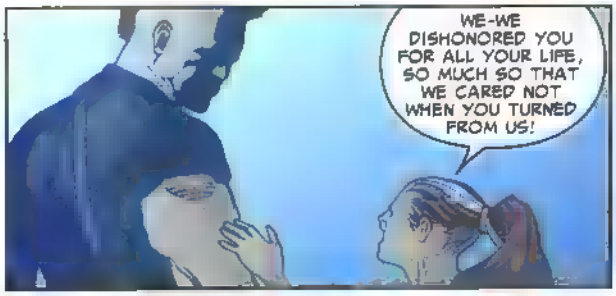


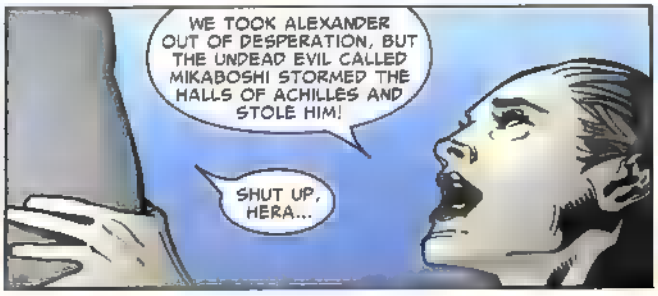
BOOM!
BOOOM!

CLICK
CLICK

ENOUGH!
ENOUGH OF MAN'S TOYS!
LET ME FEEL THEIR BLOOD ON MY HANDS!
CRACK!
LET ME SEE THE FEAR IN THEIR EYES!
LET ME FEEL DEATH IN MY GRIP!
THOOM!
WHAT?
CALM THE TIDE, ARES. IT APPEARS YOUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED--
WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED...
TO THE HALLS OF YOUR FATHER!

ARES, MY SON, FORGIVE US! OLYMPUS IS FALLING, GODS ARE DYING!
OUR PEOPLE [redacted] CRUSHED BENEATH THESE STRANGE ENEMIES, AND YOUR SON--OH, HELP US--WE HAVE LOST YOUR SON!


WE-WE DISHONORED YOU FOR ALL YOUR LIFE, SO MUCH SO THAT WE CARED NOT WHEN YOU TURNED FROM US!


WE TOOK ALEXANDER OUT OF DESPERATION, BUT THE UNDEAD EVIL CALLED MIKABOSHI STORMED THE HALLS OF ACHILLES AND STOLE HIM!
SHUT UP, HERA...

YOU STOLE MY SON!!

ARES! HAD YOU COME WHEN CALLED UPON, YOUR SON WOULD NOT [redacted] IN DANGER! ALL BUT A FEW WERE DEAD TO PROTECT YOUR BOY, YOU SELFISH ANIMAL!
WHO ARE *YOU* CALLING ANIMAL?
HERCULES, THE HALF SON OF SOME EARTH WENCH! I'LL KILL YOU, LITTLE BROTHER!

YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF MY FATHER'S BLOOD!!

STOP THIS!!

THOOM!

MY SON. HOW I HAVE WRONGED YOU. HOW WE ALL HAVE.

I ONLY SOUGHT YOUR AID, AND IT HAS COST US YOUR CHILD! WE WERE WRONG FOR SCORNING YOU IN THE PAST, AND YET WE MUST CALL ON YOU NOW IN OUR TIME OF NEED.

YOU TURNED ON US MANY TIMES, HATED US... BUT WE REAP WHAT WE SOW, DO WE NOT?

WE ONLY TOOK ALEXANDER IN HOPES OF WINNING YOU BACK, LIKE THE OLD FOOLISH GODS WE ARE, YET ONLY WOE COMES OF OUR ACTIONS...

I HAVE WATCHED YOU FROM ABOVE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND I SEE HOW, LIKE HERCULES AND ODIN'S SON, THOR, YOU HAVE BENEFITED FROM WHAT MANKIND CAN BEST TEACH THE GODS--HUMILITY.

KATHOOM!

HOW DARE YOU--

I SAID DO NOT LAY HANDS UPON YOUR BROTHER!

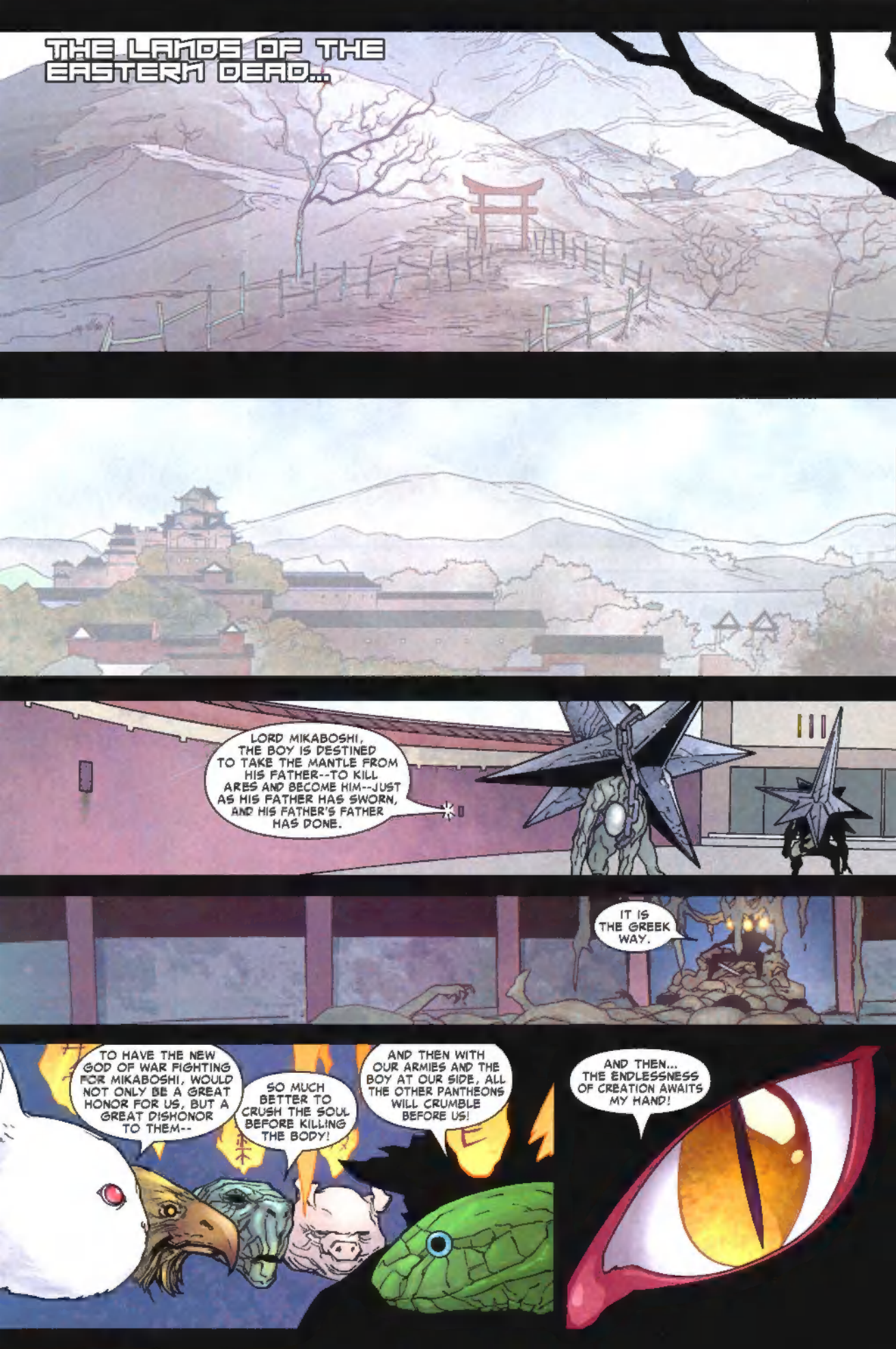
AAAAHH!

YOU ARE DAMNING...US ALL, FATHER...YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER CALLED UPON ARES...AH...EVEN AT THE EDGE OF OUR DESTRUCTION! I SWEAR, I WILL TURN THE TIDE--

I BEG OF YOU, SON, AS I HAVE NEVER BEGGED MAN NOR GOD BEFORE.

I BEG OF YOU TO FORGIVE THE ARROGANCE OF YOUR GODLY FAMILY. I BEG OF YOU TO FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE TO YOUR FAMILY.

I BEG OF YOU, STAND WITH YOUR [redacted] AND BROTHER TO DEFEAT THIS FOE FROM THE EAST AND RECOVER YOUR SON!


THE LANDS OF THE EASTERN DEAD...
LORD MIKABOSHI, THE BOY IS DESTINED TO TAKE THE MANTLE FROM HIS FATHER--TO KILL ARES AND BECOME HIM--JUST AS HIS FATHER HAS SWORN, AND HIS FATHER'S FATHER HAS DONE.
IT IS THE GREEK WAY.
TO HAVE THE NEW GOD OF WAR FIGHTING FOR MIKABOSHI, WOULD NOT ONLY BE A GREAT HONOR FOR US, BUT A GREAT DISHONOR TO THEM--
SO MUCH BETTER TO CRUSH THE SOUL BEFORE KILLING THE BODY!
AND THEN WITH OUR ARMIES AND THE BOY AT OUR SIDE, ALL THE OTHER PANTHEONS WILL CRUMBLE BEFORE US!
AND THEN... THE ENDLESSNESS OF CREATION AWAITS MY HAND!

UNNNHH... MY HEAD...
DAD?

DO NOT WORRY, I AM HERE. I WILL KEEP YOU SAFE, ALEXANDER.
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? WHERE AM I?

TAKE THIS, IT WILL MAKE YOU ALL BETTER. YOU WERE TAKEN BY EVIL MEN, BUT WE RESCUED YOU.
EVIL MEN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHERE IS MY FATHER?

DRINK.

ALEXANDER, YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASKING WHERE IS YOUR FATHER... BUT WHO IS YOUR FATHER...

WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF YOUR FATHER? WHO IS HIS FATHER? OR HIS MOTHER? WHERE IS HE FROM? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
I MUST TELL YOU OF HARD TRUTHS, BUT IF YOU SEARCH DEEPLY INTO YOUR HEART AND MIND, YOU WILL SEE THE TRUTH.
MY FATHER LOVES ME.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT? YOU ARE JUST A BOY. EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM IS A LIE, SO HOW DO YOU KNOW IF HE REALLY EVER LOVED YOU...
...IF YOUR WHOLE LIFE TOGETHER WAS FALSE?

I WANT MY FATHER!
LOOK INTO YOUR HEART AND YOU WILL SEE IT! AS ZEUS TURNED AWAY FROM HIS OWN EVIL FATHER, YOU MUST DO THE SAME! YOUR FATHER IS DEAD. HE WAS NEVER A MAN NAMED AARON. HE WAS A *LIE*, ALEXANDER!

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